IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 4 (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) ~~An expansive element in a thermoelastic design that is~~ A thermoelastic actuator for a micro-electromechanical device, the actuator being made from any functionally suitable material or combinations of materials selected from a group including:

silicides and carbides of titanium.

6. (currently amended) An ~~expansive element~~ actuator according to Claim 5 ~~further including~~ in which the material or combination of materials is selected to have one or more of the following properties:

(a) a resistivity between 0.1μΩm and 10.0μΩm;

(b) chemically inert in air;

(c) chemically inert in ~~the chosen~~ ink; and

(d) depositable by CVD, sputtering or other thin film deposition technique.

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7. (currently amended) ~~An expansive element in a thermoelastic design that is~~ A thermoelastic actuator for a micro-electromechanical device, the actuator being made from any functionally suitable material or combinations of materials selected from a group including:

borides, silicides, carbides and nitrides of tantalum, molybdenum, niobium, chromium, tungsten, vanadium, and zirconium.

8. (currently amended) An ~~expansive element~~ actuator according to Claim 7 ~~further including~~ in which the material or combination of materials is selected to have one or more of the following properties:

(e) a resistivity between 0.1μΩm and 10.0μΩm;

(f) chemically inert in air;

(g) chemically inert in ~~the chosen~~ ink; and

(h) depositable by CVD, sputtering or other thin film deposition technique.

9. (currently amended) ~~An expansive element in a thermoelastic design that is~~ A thermoelastic actuator for a micro-electromechanical device, the actuator being made from

any functionally suitable alloy material or combinations of alloy materials selected from the group including:

borides, silicides, carbides and nitrides of titanium, tantalum, molybdenum, niobium, chromium, tungsten, vanadium, and zirconium.

10. (currently amended) An ~~expansive element~~ actuator according to Claim 9 ~~further including~~ in which the alloy material or combinations of alloy material is selected to have one or more of the following properties:

(i) a resistivity between 0.1μΩm and 10.0μΩm;

(j) chemically inert in air;

(k) chemically inert in ~~the chosen~~ ink; and

(l) depositable by CVD, sputtering or other thin film deposition technique.